

Soviets Appeal to British Workers

RUSSIAN SOCIALIST FEDERATED SOVIET
REPUBLIC

Comrades—

Why have you come to Mourmansk? You have been told in England that the demand for men on the western front is greater than ever. You know that in England men of forty-five and over are being called to the colors because of the urgent need of men in France. Yet your soldiers are brought here, right in the Arctic Sea, a thousand miles from the battle front.

For what purpose? Your government tells us that it has no hostile intentions towards us, that it does not desire to occupy our territory. That it will not interfere with our internal affairs. That they have been sent here only for the purpose of defending our Mourman railway against the Finns and the Germans. Comrades, it is not true!

When anybody offers to put himself to considerable trouble and expense on your behalf, unasked you get a little suspicious of his motives. We have not asked your government to help us to defend our country. We know that their intentions are quite other than those they express to us.

The Mourman railway is in no danger either from the Germans or Finns. If you look at a map you will see that the railways and roads from the west of Finland end hundreds of miles short of the Mourman railway. If the Finns want to approach our border they must traverse hundreds of miles of marshy forest land, and you know how difficult it is for an army to do that.

Neither can the Germans threaten the railway.

If the Germans want to attack the Mourman railway they must first take Petrograd, and march through our country hundreds of miles from Petrograd to Petrozavodsk. We are no longer at war with Germany. The Germans cannot advance on Petrograd without first declaring war on us again. There is no likelihood of this happening. Except this, that if your army comes south, the German may use this as a pretext to advance further into the country.

Therefore, you are not required to defend us.

"INTELLECTUALS" AND WORKERS IN THE PARIS COMMUNE

[From Lissagaray's "History of the Commune of 1871."]

Five deputies only signed the address for the election (for the Communal Council). The rest of Louis Blanc's group had kept aloof from Paris for several days. These weaklings, having all their life sung the glories of the revolution, when it rose before them ran away appalled, like the Arab fisher at the apparition of the genie.

With these mandarins of the tribune of history and of journalism, mute and lifeless, contrast strangely the sons of the multitude—obscure, but rich in will, faith and eloquence. They could indeed "come down the steps of the Hotel-de-Ville head erect," these obscure men who had safely anchored the revolution of the 18th March. Named only to organize the National Guard; thrown at the head of a revolution without precedent and without guides, they had been able to resist the impatient, quell the riot, re-establish the public services, victual Paris, baffle intrigues, take advantage of all the blunders of Versailles and of the mayors, and, harassed on all sides, every moment in danger of civil war, known how to negotiate to act at the right time and in the right place. They had embodied the tendency of the movement; limited their program to communal revindications, and conducted the entire population to the ballot box. They had inaugurated a precise, vigorous, and fraternal language unknown to all bourgeois powers. And yet they were obscure men, all with an imperfect education, some of them fanatics.

But the people thought with them. Where illustrious bourgeoisie had only accumulated folly upon defeat, these new comers found victory, because they listened to Paris.

[This is the text of the famous manifesto of the Soviet Government to which so many references have been made in the daily press. As an official statement of the Russian case, it deserves to be read in conjunction with Lord Milner's letter putting the arguments for intervention.]

On the contrary, your presence here increases our danger. Why then have your soldiers been brought here? We will tell you.

They have been brought here to occupy our country in the interest of Allied capitalists.

They have been brought here to overthrow our revolution and bring back the reign of Tsarism!

You cannot believe this. You say that the British government would never do such a thing. Let the facts speak for themselves.

The English capitalist newspapers, Times, Morning Post, Telegraph, are writing every day about erecting a "strong, resolute government" in Russia. Do these papers represent the views of democracy, or do they represent the views of the financiers, capitalists and profiteers of England? These papers also constantly refer to the wealth of timber contained in our northern territory, which they say would be sufficient to pay for the loans which the financiers, capitalists, and profiteers lent to a corrupt and tyrannical Tsarism. Capitalists and financiers are not the friends of English workers, nor Russian workers, nor the workers of any country. Who controls the government of England today? The workers or the financial oligarchy? The financial oligarchy. They are ordering and directing the landing in Mourmansk. You are being used in the interest of the profiteers, who are profiting out of the lives and labors of the working people.

Your government is interfering in our internal affairs. It has established its own control in the district you occupy. It has cut off our telegraphic communication with outside. It is attempting to seduce our citizens into fighting against us. At Kem your government shot four members of our local Soviet.

Your government denies that it did so, but we have positive proof that it did.

The Techecho-Slovaks!

You know that on the Volga, right in the heart of our country, the Techecho-Slovaks are openly striving to crush our revolution. They said that they wanted to fight the Germans, but they have remained here, and are fighting us. They say they

are fighting for liberty, but they are fighting to bring back the Tsarist regime. They are extending into Siberia. Wherever they go they suppress our Soviet (Council of Worker Delegates), hang its members, and put Tsarist officers in its place. These Techecho-Slovaks are gathering round themselves the corrupt and reactionary officials of the Tsarist regime. It is the same crowd that betrayed Kitchener, that sold the guns and munitions made in British factories to the Germans, that disorganized our army, and who were just about to sell Russia to the Germans when we made our revolution.

The one object of the Techecho-Slovaks and this crowd is to crush our revolution and to bring back Tsarism. They have officially declared that to be their object. And this has the unconcealed—nay, outspoken support of the Allied governments.

The Allied governments and the Allied press are applauding the deeds of the Techecho-Slovaks. The French consul made a speech in which he congratulated them on the task they had undertaken. They are financed by the Allied Military Mission. Their operations are directed by French officers.

The landing in Mourmansk is part of the scheme to co-operate with the Techecho-Slovaks.

For the first time in history the working people have got control of their country. The workers of all Russia are striving to achieve this object. We in Russia have succeeded. We have thrown off the rule of the Tsar, of landlords, and of capitalists. But we have still tremendous difficulties to overcome. We cannot build a new society in a day. We desire to be left alone.

You in your trade unions have been fighting capitalism; you know what it is.

Comrades! Englishmen! You pride yourselves on your love of liberty!

Comrades! Descendants of the great Chartists! You who have always expressed sympathy with the Russian Revolution!

Remember this! If the Russian Revolution is crushed, then the power of the capitalists will be enormously strengthened in every country, and the fight for economic freedom will be put back for a hundred years.

N. LENIN,

President, Council Peoples' Commissaries

C. TCHITCHERINE,

Peoples' Commissary for Foreign Affairs.

A new political party, "the Independence Association," has recently been formed in Porto Rico to agitate for the complete separation of the island from the control of the United States. The official organ of the party is La Correspondencia. In connection with the growth of separatist agitation, a correspondent of the New York Evening Post reports that a letter has been received by the dean of the University of Porto Rico from Dr. Paul G. Miller, Commissioner of Education, "requesting a list of the names of the members of the graduating class of the Normal School who had signed the petition to the House of Representatives urging that a certain resolution to the President of the United States be changed so as to pray for the complete independence of Porto Rico." The Commissioner further stated that no appointments as teachers would be granted to any applicants whose loyalty to the United States might be questioned.

WOMEN BOLSHEVISTS IN FINLAND

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Discovery of a nation-wide Bolshevik women's organization in Finland, through the arrest of an 18-year-old girl, is reported in despatches to the state department from Helsingfors. It is said that a complete list of Bolshevik agents has been obtained from the prisoner, Vancouver "Province," Feb. 4.

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